



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, the Board took the following action:

S-2

During the Health Department Budget Committee of the Whole/Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director and Fred Leaf, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Health Services, made a verbal presentation as detailed in the attached memo dated September 16, 2003 on the financial status of the Department and responded to questions raised by the Board.

Genevieve Clavreul, addressed the Board.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"The Department of Health Services (DHS) has reported to the Board that its projected deficit in Fiscal Year 2007-08 will be over \$800 million. A recent audit by the State further confirms the fiscal problems facing the Department of Health Services.

"It is of concern that Health Services' practices of providing no cost treatment to all comers serves to exacerbate an already drastic budget crisis. This practice will bankrupt the County's Health Department and gut the County's ability to provide quality health care services to those it is mandated to serve. Effective October 1, DHS will implement a policy that limits the provision of non-emergency health care services to County residents. Although this is a step in the right direction, we need to take it a step further and limit care only to lawful County residents.

(Continued on Page 2)

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“To this end, it is imperative that DHS revise its policy to limit non-emergency health care services to its mandated patient population, as established by California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 17000 lawful residents.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board instruct the Director of Health Services to develop a policy which limits non-emergency health care to only lawful County residents and report back in 15 days with a plan on implementing that policy. Said motion failed for lack of a second.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“On Saturday, September 13, 2003, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill Number 2. The bill, authored by Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, would require employers to provide health care coverage for eligible employees and dependents, including prescription drug coverage. Employers could opt to pay a fee to the State to provide coverage and require employees to pay up to 20 percent of the cost of coverage. In Los Angeles County, we are well aware of the cost burden on local government to provide health care services to the uninsured, SB 2 would bring significant financial relief to the County by expanding health care coverage to the working poor. The bill has been sent to the Governor’s desk for signature. The Board of Supervisors should continue its support of SB 2, consistent with the Chief Administrative Officer’s Fiscal Year 2003-04 State Legislative Agenda.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Burke, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky and Burke; Noes: Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich, the Executive Officer of the Board was instructed to send a letter signed by the Board to Governor Gray Davis indicating the Board’s support of SB 2 (Burton), legislation which requires employers to provide health care and prescription drug coverage to eligible employees and dependents; and urging him to sign SB 2, when it reaches his desk.

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S-2 (Continued)

Further, the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Health Services were instructed to report back to the Board within 60 days on the potential impact of SB 2 on reducing the numbers of uninsured in Los Angeles County; and requested the Los Angeles County Small Business Advisory Commission to evaluate the impact of SB 2 on the business community and to also look at the possibility of developing a low-cost health insurance policy for employers to offer their employees.

01091603-S-2

Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel

Letters sent to:

Governor Davis
Chair, Los Angeles County Small
Business Advisory Commission

September 23, 2003

The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Davis:

We are in support of SB 2 (Burton), legislation which would require employers to provide health care and prescription drug coverage to eligible employees and dependents. SB 2 would bring significant financial relief to the County by expanding health care coverage to the working poor. Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich voted no on this matter.

Very truly yours,

YVONNE BRATHWATIE BURKE
CHAIR
SUPERVISOR, 2ND DISTRICT

GLORIA MOLINA
SUPERVISOR, 1ST DISTRICT

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR, 3RD DISTRICT

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September 22, 2003

Ms. Victoria Fullerton, Chair
Los Angeles County Small Business
Advisory Commission
4800 Ceasar Chavez Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Dear Ms. Fullerton:

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, on motion of Supervisor Gloria Molina, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors went on record in support of SB 2 (Burton), legislation which would require employers to provide health care and prescription drug coverage to eligible employees and dependents. Supervisor Knabe and Antonovich voted no on this matter.

Further, the Board requested the Commission to evaluate the impact of SB 2 on the business community and to also look at the possibility of developing a low-cost health insurance policy for employers to offer their employees.

Very truly yours,

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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c: Ms. Edna Bruce, Contact
Los Angeles County Small Business
Advisory Commission

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
Executive Officer

September 22, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

FROM: Violet Varona-Lukens
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: THREE-SIGNATURE LETTER

As instructed by your Board, enclosed is a three-signature letter to Governor Gray Davis, urging support for SB 2 (Burton), legislation which would require employers to provide health care and prescription drug coverage to eligible employees and dependents.

Your earliest attention to this matter would be appreciated. Please have your Secretary contact Angie Montes in the Ads/Zoning/Ordinances Section at extension 4-1426, for circulation to the next Board Office.

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Enclosure